



OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING June 28, 2012

Attendees: Chairman E. Ray Weaver, John Anderson and Elizabeth Yang. Also present, David R. Ignatowicz, Director, Water Pollution Control; George Rostkowski, Business Manager; Peter Williams, Town of Ellington WPCA

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Ignatowicz said that 50 people attended Arnie Bevins' retirement party on June 23rd and a clock was presented to him on behalf of the Authority.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ignatowicz asked the Authority to add Proposals to Recoat the Exterior of Chemical Storage Tanks under Item #6 - Any Additional Matters. Mr. Anderson made a motion to add the agenda item and it was seconded by Miss Yang. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

MINUTES OF WPCA REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 24, 2012

Mr. Anderson, seconded by Miss Yang, moved to accept the minutes of the of the Water Pollution Control Authority Regular Meeting held on May 24, 2012 as presented. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT REPORT

Mr. Ignatowicz reported that flows are significantly less than at the same time last year, primarily due to drier weather conditions. The monthly average limit for copper was exceeded due to contributions from copper piping in domestic water lines and DEEP has been made aware of this in the past. The turbo that failed on the emergency generator in May was replaced this week, and the generator still has to be test run under a full load once the rental unit has been disconnected. To date, the amount reimbursed by Hartford Steamboiler has been approximately \$224,829. Septage increased by 68,000 gallons from last year at this time. Mr. Ignatowicz informed the Authority that the Town of Vernon entered into a bid proposal for a WPCA fuel cell with CL&P. If the proposal is accepted, and agreements are reached between CL&P, the Town of Vernon and UTC Power, energy can be used by the treatment plant from the fuel cell Mr. Ignatowicz said. Also, once completed, Mr. Ignatowicz said that energy from the Green-Skies Solar project will be available as well. Miss Yang asked if a more detailed report regarding costs could be provided by UTC. Mr. Ignatowicz reported that Electrical Contractors (ECI) of Hartford completed a week long preventative maintenance program on all 4,800 volt electrical distribution equipment and transformers at the treatment plant. There is some remedial work to be done as a result of the inspection he said, but overall the equipment is in good shape. A discussion took place with regard to upgrading the treatment facility or buying credits to comply with phosphorus and nitrogen removal.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Rostkowski presented information regarding the History of the Waste Treatment Budget; Septage Charges and Connection Fees; Sewer User Rate History, Comparisons, and

Changes; Sewer User Fund; Billable Flows over the past five years; Transfer Wire/Investment Form; Actual & Projected Sewer Use Rates and the Impact of a Sewer Use Rate Increase. Mr. Ignatowicz noted that the Waste Treatment Budget will increase about 4% for the next fiscal year and Mr. Rostkowski reported that investment income was about \$4,000 this fiscal year. Mr. Ignatowicz explained that the Authority cannot make changes to investment options without the Town's Finance Officer and although requested, a meeting has yet to take place between Mr. Rostkowski and Mr. Luddecke. Mr. Weaver asked how the minimum rate is determined. Mr. Anderson requested information regarding septage charges from competitors to be presented at the next meeting. Miss Yang asked about the increase in rates in 2007. Mr. Ignatowicz and Mr. Rostkowski explained that increases in the cost of insurance and natural gas, the replacement of three screw pumps, the depreciation expense of the sanitary sewer system and the diffuser upgrade all contributed to the rate increase. Mr. Rostkowski said that Amerbelle's sewer user fees are about \$200,000 annually which accounts for approximately 3.75% of sewer user fees. A discussion took place about the closing of Amerbelle; whether or not the company would pay its sewer use bill; and collection options. Mr. Anderson requested Mr. Ignatowicz draft a memo to Town Administration John Ward to have the Town keep the Authority apprised of Amerbelle's last day of operation and any discussions that have taken place regarding the payment of taxes and sewer user fees. If sewer user fees are not increased, Mr. Rostkowski explained that there would be a deficit of \$91,000 in operating cost. Mr. Ignatowicz recommended to the Authority that the new sewer user rate should be \$5.86/1000 gallons with a minimum usage charge of \$27.00. Mr. Anderson, seconded by Miss Yang, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority schedule a Public Hearing on August 9th, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Water Pollution Control Facility located at 100 Windsorville Road at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of establishing sewer user rates for the last three months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 and the first nine months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 and those recommended rates to be \$5.86/1000 gallons; \$27.00 as a minimum sewer user fee; \$75/1000 septage fee. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

REPAIR AND EXTERIOR REFINISHING OF (4) FIBERGLASS CHEMICAL TANKS

Mr. Ignatowicz informed the Authority that he contacted four potential vendors capable of recoating the exterior of the four, 4000 gallon outdoor chemical tanks. One vendor did not respond and another would charge \$3,500 for only an inspection. A third vendor would charge \$3,200/tank and would involve relocating the man-ways to the bottom of the tanks. Mr. Ignatowicz said that Bee Fiberglass, upon inspection, indicated that the interior of the sodium hypochlorite tanks seemed to be in good condition and the sodium bisulfite tanks needed to be cleaned more thoroughly. Their quote, dated March 13, 2012, for exterior coating was \$18,750. Mr. Ignatowicz said that if the quote is invalid or the cost has increased, then he would not go forward with the recoating. Miss Yang, seconded by Mr. Anderson, made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority has determined it to be in the best interest of the Town of Vernon to waive the bid procedure and to authorize Bee Fiberglass Company, 198 Airport Road, Fall River, MA 02720 to prepare and coat the exterior of four (4) 4,000 gallon FRP tanks at the Water Pollution Control Facility at a cost of \$18,750 in accordance with a quote dated March 13, 2012. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

ADJOURN

Miss Yang, seconded by Mr. Anderson, moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Yost
Secretary, Water Pollution Control